

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-12 L-03 /075 W
-----056697 191409Z /46

R 191125Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6327
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
DOD/ISA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0219

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN US STATE/DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM AND
SUDANESE MILITARY

REF: A) STATE 14094; B) KHARTOUM 190

1. GENERAL JAGGERS, COLONEL RHYNE, AND I CALLED ON
PRESIDENT NIMEIRI THIS MORNING, JANUARY 19. PRESIDENT
RECEIVED US AT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN PRESENCE OF CHIEF
OF STAFF LTG MOHAMED OSMAN HASHIM AND DEPUTY CHIEF
OF STAFF MG ABDUL MAGID.
2. GENERAL JAGGERS REVIEWED DISCUSSIONS HE HAD HAD
WITH SUDANESE MILITARY OVER LAST TWO DAYS AND NOTED
SUDAN'S DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH PROCUREMENT OF ALL
MATERIEL ENCOMPASSED IN EXPANDED PHASE I (REFTEL B) AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE.

3. PRESIDENT SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE TWO POINTS. THE FIRST
HAD TO DO WITH THE TIMING OF PROSPECTIVE DELIVERIES OF
US EQUIPMENT. THE SITUATION IN THE HORN WAS ESCALATING
AND SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT WAS RAPIDLY INCREASING.
THESE DEVELOPMENTS ADDED URGENCY TO THE SUDAN'S REQUEST
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FOR TIMELY DELIVERY OF THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. PRESIDENT
ASSURED US THAT SUDAN HAD NO INTENTION TO ATTACK ANYBODY.
SUDAN HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS, PEOPLE, AND LAND. HE
BELIEVED IT WAS PURELY NORMAL FOR SUDAN TO SEEK TO
STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSES IN PRESENT DANGEROUS SITUATION.

4. PRESIDENT SAID HIS SECOND POINT HAD TO DO WITH

FINANCING. HE WAS SURE THAT SAUDIS WOULD FINANCE EXPANDED PHASE I. HOWEVER, SHOULD THINGS IN THE HORN CONTINUE TO ESCALATE, HE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE A DIRECT REQUEST TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR US PARTICIPATION IN THE FINANCING OF A PROGRAM AUGMENTED TO RESPOND TO INCREASING DANGER.

5. DRAWING FROM REFTTEL A, I MENTIONED NEED FOR FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST FROM SUDANGOV FOR AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE. GENERAL ABDUL MAGID POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A FORMAL REQUEST HAD BEEN EMBODIED IN THE AGREED MINUTES WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED BOTH BY HIM AND BY GENERAL JAGGERS. I EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY SUFFICIENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S PURPOSES.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0219

6. THERE ENSUED A FAIRLY LENGTHY DISCUSSION AS TO NEXT STEPS. IT BECAME APPARENT THAT SUDANESE GENERALS HAD PERSUADED PRESIDENT THAT HE SHOULD APPROACH SAUDIS WITH FIGURES NOT ONLY FOR AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE BUT ALSO FOR REMAINDER OF EXPANDED PHASE I. DRAWING ON PARA THREE REFTTEL A, I URGED THAT WE GET THE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE, ON ITS OWN, MOVING THROUGH THE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I SAID THAT TRYING TO DO TOO MUCH TOO SOON COULD JEOPARDIZE FURTHER US-SUDANESE MILITARY COOPERATION. I BELIEVE NIMEIRI SAW THE POINT VIS-A-VIS THE US CONGRESS. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES AGREE THAT NEXT STEP MUST BE THE ARRIVAL OF US TECHNICIANS HERE TO WORK WITH THE SUDANESE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRECISE COSTING OF AN LOA COVERING THE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE. HE WOULD STILL, HOWEVER, LIKE TO HAVE SOME ROUGH FIGURES COVERING ALL OF THE ITEMS

INCLUDED IN EXPANDED PHASE I FOR EARLY PRESENTATION
(WHICH HE WILL MAKE PERSONALLY) TO SAUDIS.
COLONEL RHYNE INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE
FOR WASHINGTON TO DEVELOP SUCH FIGURES IN ABOUT THREE
WEEKS. GENERAL JAGGERS AGAIN POINTED OUT (AS HE HAD
DONE IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH SUDANESE MILITARY) THAT
SURVEY TEAM REPORT, AS PRESENTED TO SUDANGOV HAD BEEN
CLEARED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF DEFENSE, STATE, AND BY THE
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PRESIDENT. ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN REPORT, AS
REFLECTED IN THE SIGNED MINUTES, WERE, THEREFORE, PURELY AD
REFERENDUM. (LTC RHYNE WILL HAND CARRY SUBJECT MINUTES
TO STATE ON 23 JAN.)

7. THERE FOLLOWED A DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
HORN AND SIAD BARRE'S CONTINUING REQUESTS FOR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE FROM COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO SOMALIA. NIMEIRI AGAIN
REPEATED CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HE WOULD SEND SUDANESE
FORCES TO BERBERA, STRESSING PARTICULARLY HIS INSISTENCE
THAT HE WOULD NOT SEND SUDANESE TROOPS ON A UNILATERAL
BASIS. SUDANESE TROOPS WOULD ONLY BE SENT AS A RESULT
OF A DECISION BY EITHER THE OAU OR THE ARAB LEAGUE.
HE DID NOT THINK THAT AN OAU REQUEST WAS VERY LIKELY,
SINCE SO MANY OAU MEMBERS CONSIDERED SOMALIA TO BE
THE AGGRESSOR IN THE SITUATION. AT THIS POINT IN
CONVERSATION, CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THAT SUDAN, WITH
ITS WEAK AIR DEFENSES AND VULNERABLE TARGETS, COULD NOT
TAKE THE RISK OF "PARTICIPATING" IN MILITARY OPERATIONS
IN SOMALIA. NIMEIRI ALSO RECOUNTED HIS POST FREETOWN
OFFER TO MENGISTU TO COOPERATE IN SEEKING PEACEFUL
SOLUTIONS TO ERITREAN AND OGADEN PROBLEMS. SO FAR, HE
HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM MENGISTU.

8. COMMENT: IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT HIS GENERALS
HAD FIRED UP NIMEIRI TO SEEK SAUDI FINANCING FOR ALL OF
EQUIPMENT ENVISAGED IN EXPANDED PHASE I IN ONE FELL
SWOOP. IT WAS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT THE GENERALS
(AND ZHUBTLESS NIMEIRI) WOULD PREFER USG AS SOLE
SOURCE OF ENTIRE EXPANDED PHASE I. WE THREW AS MUCH
COLD WATER ON THIS AS WE COULD, BUT ID NOT RPT NOT
WISH TO START A DONNYBROOK WITH THE PRESIDENT IN THE
PRESENCE OF HIS GENERALS. I DO NOT THINK IT WILL BE
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DIFFICULT IN FURTHER QUIET DISCUSSION, EITHER WITH

THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY, OR THROUGH THE DENG CHANNEL
TO GET MATTERS BACK ON THE TRACK.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A) THAT WE SEND A TECHNICAL TEAM TO KHARTOUM TO
DEVELOP THE LOA'S FOR THE AIR DEXPNSE PACKAGES AS
EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

B) THAT WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, I BE INSTRUCTED
TO GET WORD TO NIMEIRI THAT THE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE IS
AS MUCH AS THE US EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL TRAFFIC
WILL BEAR FOR THE PRESENT. TO SOFTEN THE BLOW, I WOULD
LIKE TO HAND TO HIM AT THAT TIME A PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE
LIST PREPARED BY THE DOD, INDICATING WHERE THE ITEMS
IN THE REST OF US PHASE I AND SUDANGOV'S EXPANDED
PHASE I MIGHT BE PROCURED AND GIVING A VERY ROUGH
ESTIMATE AS TO COSTS.

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